



The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

On behalf of the 1.5 million Medicare beneficiaries living with chronic lymphatic system failure (lymphedema), the undersigned organizations urge you to pass the Lymphedema Treatment Act (“LTA”), H.R. 930 / S. 497, before the 115th Congress adjourns.

Lymphedema, like other chronic conditions, has no cure, but its effects can be mitigated through proper management. For example, the use of cost-effective medical compression has been proven to reduce complications, resulting in fewer hospitalizations and a decrease in physician and therapy office visits.

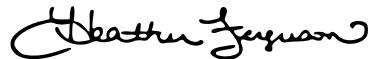
As policymakers strive to help beneficiaries live healthier and more productive lives, we encourage you to pass this legislation that has been supported by over 440 Members of Congress. The bill will address the growing number of cancer-related secondary cases, as well as those beneficiaries who acquired lymphedema from other causes or who are born with a compromised lymphatic system.

Compression therapy is the cornerstone in the standard of care for lymphedema, and the LTA is a common-sense solution that closes an unintended gap in Medicare coverage. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) acknowledged the necessity of compression therapy in the treatment of lymphedema in its National Coverage Determination for Pneumatic Compression Pumps.

The federal government recognized its importance when it included coverage for compression garments for the treatment of breast cancer-related lymphedema in the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998. Furthermore, lymphedema compression supplies are already covered by Veterans Affairs, TriCare, and Medicaid plans in 44 states plus the District of Columbia.

Multiple peer-reviewed studies confirm that compression garments and supplies improve patient outcomes while reducing overall healthcare costs. It's time to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with lymphedema have coverage for these vital, prescription medical supplies. It is imperative that Congress pass the LTA before the 115th Congress adjourns.

Sincerely,



Heather Ferguson  
Founder & Executive Director  
Lymphedema Advocacy Group  
Heather@LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org  
704-965-0620

Together with the following organizations and hospitals:

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Cancer Society  
American Medical Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
Breast Cancer Action  
Cancer Legal Care  
Cancer Legal Resources Center  
Lipedema Foundation  
Lighthouse Lymphedema Network  
Living Beyond Breast Cancer  
Lymphedema Advocacy Group  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
National Lymphedema Network  
Northwest Lymphedema Center  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Susan G. Komen  
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

Boston Children's Hospital Vascular Anomalies Center  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Huntsman Cancer Institute  
Moffitt Cancer Center  
Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance  
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University  
University of Vermont Cancer Center